



Assistance Dogs
INTERNATIONAL

2023 Accreditation Manual

Section 5. Standards for Training of Dogs

The intent of these standards is to ensure that all policies and procedures regarding selection, training, and care of dogs are in accordance with ADI Standards for dogs; that there is a comprehensive education and training program individualized to the needs of the dog and client; and that there are detailed training records.

Please refer to Compliance Guidance Notes on Training of Dogs for further information about these standards.

NOTE: Training observation will take place with trainers, clients and puppy raisers in the program's facility (if they have one) or at whatever location is used to train the dogs. Observation will also occur in public, and this can be done at locations such as a local mall or shopping area that includes a restaurant. Observing clients working with their dogs can occur at their home, at the facility, or in public.

- 5.1 Dogs receive socialization following selection, ensuring correct exposure to a variety of situations. In the case of client owned-dogs, clients are given similar advice as puppy raisers/socializers. Records will document a careful and systematic socialization approach, including but not limited to:

- ☐ Children, men, women
- ☐ Traffic
- ☐ Other animals
- ☐ Common household distractions
- ☐ Wheelchairs and other assistive devices
- ☐ Common neighborhood distractions
- ☐ Common public distractions

Paperwork on Site – Interview – Observation

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

- 5.2 The program provides adequate and reasonable advice and support to volunteers who assist with dog care, fostering, and/or training throughout the training process. There is clear documentation that the program has ultimate responsibility for the dogs in the event of emergencies or extenuating circumstances.

Paperwork on Site – Interview

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

5.3 The following training standards are in place for *all* assistance dogs:

- ☐ Reliably execute basic obedience skills by responding to voice and/or hand signals.
 - ☐ sitting
 - ☐ staying in place within 24" (60cm) of handler at all times unless the nature of the trained task requires it to be working at a greater distance
 - ☐ laying down
 - ☐ walking in a controlled position near the client
 - ☐ off-lead recall to the client or handler
- ☐ Respond to cues (basic obedience and skilled tasks) on a consistent basis, with or without client support, on the first ask in all public and home environments, in a way that shows the client is working effectively with the dog.
- ☐ Dogs will be able to reliably execute assistive task(s) that directly mitigate the symptoms of a person's disability in accordance with the client's individual needs. At least one task must be utilized by the client in public. These needs have been discussed with the client at interview and during the matching process.

Interview – Observation

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

5.4 Dogs are safe, well-mannered, even-tempered, and unobtrusive in public settings and where the client will need to go.

Interview – Observation

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

5.5 Dogs are trained using LIMA based training methods applied by skilled staff or volunteers. All dogs are trained using humane training methods that provide for the physical and emotional safety of the dog. Any type of hitting, kicking, ear pinching, and/or strangulation of dogs as a method of training or interaction with the dog is not permitted at any point in the life of the dog.

Paperwork on Site – Interview – Observation

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

- 5.6 Program volunteers, staff, and clients are not permitted to utilize the following equipment on any dog at any time for any reason:

- ☐ Shock collars
- ☐ Prong collars
- ☐ Collars made fully of chain

Paperwork on site-Interview-Observation

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

- 5.7 The program maintains individual canine training schedules, plans and progress reports for the entirety of the program's training process up to and including team training. All programs must have a documented, consistent relationship with the dog for a minimum of 6 months.

Paperwork in Advance – Interview

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

- 5.8 The program has a documented process to determine selection of prospective assistance dogs. Similar assessments are conducted by programs training clients' owned-dogs. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- ☐ Temperament suitability
- ☐ Health suitability
- ☐ Aptitude for the specific assistance tasks
- ☐ Socially acceptable behavior

Paperwork in Advance – Paperwork on Site – Interview

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

- 5.8 The program has a documented process in place to demonstrate that at the time of certification of the team the dog is physically and mentally mature and reliable in its role, which takes into account each dog as an individual.

Paperwork on Site – Interview – Observation

Yes ☐ No ☐

Notes:

Result of Section 5: Standards for Training of Dogs

Pass ☐

Fail ☐

Comments:

Section 7. Facilities and Kennels

The intent of these standards is to ensure that all facilities and kennels used by the program provide the care needed to meet the individual needs of each dog; that kennels provide a safe and enriched environment; that there are proper maintenance and cleaning procedures throughout the entire facility; and that facilities are accessible to the population served.

Please refer to Compliance Guidance Notes on Facilities and Kennels for further information about these standards.

- 7.1 Where the program provides facilities or utilizes other external facilities for client training, meetings, etcetera, they must comply with regional accessibility laws and be accessible, comfortable, and clean.

Inspection

Yes ☐ No ☐

- 7.2 Programs that provide vehicles for the transport of staff, clients, volunteers and dogs adhere to the following:

- ☐ Provide safe and comfortable transportation for all humans and dogs
- ☐ Be designed or appropriately modified to ensure the security of humans and dogs
- ☐ Have appropriate climate control. Where programs rely on continuous ventilation only when parked, extreme weather policies must be in place to ensure the health and safety of the dogs.

Interview – Inspection

Yes ☐ No ☐

- 7.3 The program's kennel facilities and animal welfare/wellness practices are designed to mitigate "kennel stress" and include sufficient environment enrichment to provide for the overall welfare of the dogs, including opportunities for appropriate exercise.

Interview – Inspection

Yes ☐ No ☐

7.4 Inspection of Kennel facilities/Crates:

See Compliance Guidance Note on Kennels.

- ☐ size of kennel/crate compatible with the size of the dog and, where applicable, in line with regional requirements
- ☐ kennels/crates must be set up to facilitate specific individual functions, such as breeding, boarding, training, isolation, veterinary clinic and hospital and where appropriate/in alignment with the stated function, allow dogs to look out to the wider environment through at least one side of the kennel/crate. Unless there is a breeding or veterinary need, kennels/crates should not be covered longer than 2 hours at a time.
- ☐ kennels/crates must be maintained in good order in line with a maintenance and cleaning schedule
- ☐ building material: easy to clean and conducive to the maintenance of animal health and welfare and, where applicable, in line with regional building codes/requirements
- ☐ kennel/crate environments must provide for appropriate temperature and humidity control (heating and cooling), ventilation and natural and/or artificial lighting conducive to the health and safety of animals and staff. Where weather related extremes cannot be controlled within the dog's environment, programs have policies in place to ensure the health and safety of the dogs.
- ☐ any beds or bedding provided are safe and where applicable, the space provides dogs the choice to utilize beds/bedding

Interview – Inspection

Yes ☐ No ☐

Changes to 7.4 (all changes to 7.1 - 7.3 are in red in the Standards document):

- Added crates to be included for all kennel considerations.
- Added kennels/crates must align with regional requirements.
- Specified that kennels/crates must facilitate specific individual functions such as breeding, boarding, training, isolation, etc.
- Added that kennels/crates cannot be covered for longer than 2 hours at a time, unless there is a breeding or veterinary need.
- Added that building materials must be in line with regional building codes/requirements.
- Combined/reworded bullets about temperature control, humidity, and lighting.
- Added extreme weather policies are required for kennels/crates that cannot be climate controlled.
- Moved environmental enrichment requirements to 7.3.
- Combined bullets regarding bedding and specified the space provides the dog's choice to utilize beds.

Proposed new Standard to be added to Section 1: Administration

Accreditation Manual:

The program complies with all regional legislation.

Paperwork on site

Yes ☐ No ☐